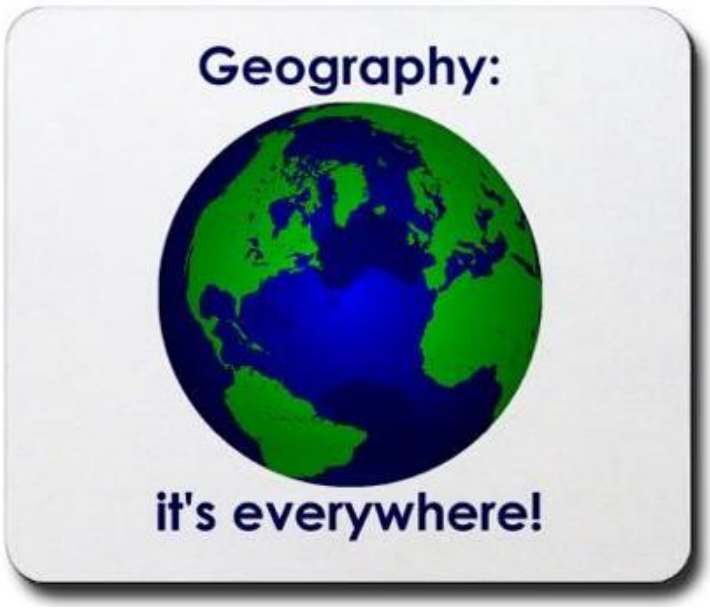
Lawnswood School
Humanities Department
Geography A Level



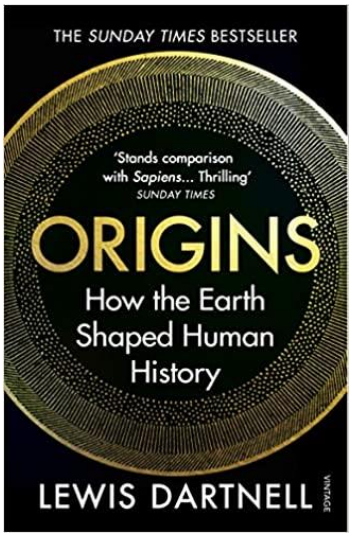
Welcome to A Level Geography

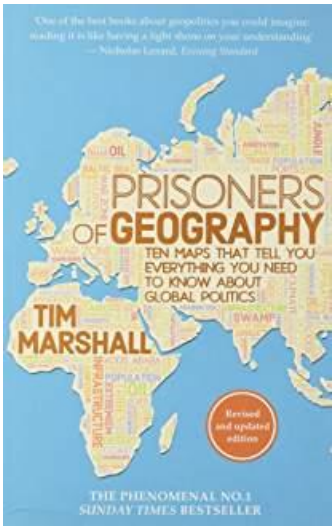
We are delighted you have chosen to study Geography A Level with us! We are with the exam board AQA. The AQA website has more detailed information on the course if you are interested at this stage

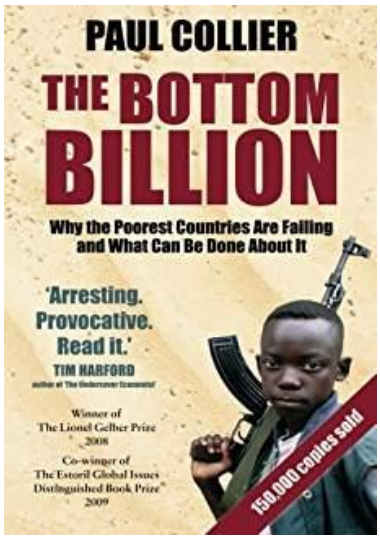
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/specification-at-a-glance

If you have any questions about the course before we start, please email me on tom.byrne@elawnswood.co.uk. You should also join the class Showbie group using the code: **BRALB**

To gain a wider overview of the world around us – We recommend these three books as a starting point.







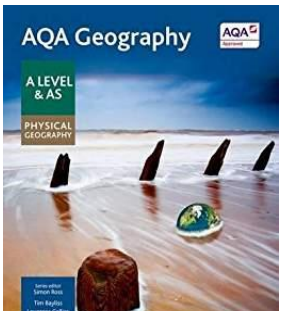
This one needs reading

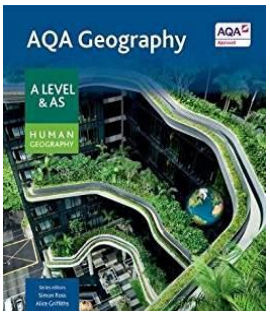
These two are also available on the audible app on an iPhone/iPad

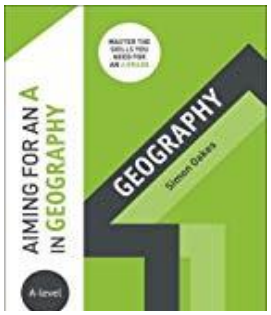
These three texts will give you a jump start to open up your awareness to the bigger issues and the global scale whilst also realising how regional or national even local decision have global knock on effects and consequences; how one set of decision can shape or re-shape the future. Together they also begin to help you release how many

things are influenced by the world around us, physical as well as human factors. Let reading them let you re-think the world and look again at events around you – 'eyes wide open or eyes wide shut'?!

We also recommend the following text books in addition to the main text book – Please check this with the subject teacher before you purchase any books.







Reading list:

Geography Reading List

1 Prisoners of Geography
Tim Marshall
Splitting the world into 10 distinct regions suggests our key political driver continues to be our physical geography. It includes why China and India will never fall into conflict. One of the best books about geopolitics you could imagine!

2 Factfulness
Hans Rosling
A radical new explanation of why we systematically get the answers to questions about development, revealing ten instincts that distort our perspective. Sweeps aside our worst instincts and makes the world a sunnier place.

3 The Almighty Dollar
Dharshini David
Follows $1 from a shopping trip in Texas, via China's central bank, Nigerian railroads, the oilfields of Iraq and beyond to reveal the complex relationships of our new globalised world.

4 Connectography
Parag Khanna
A guide through the emerging global network civilisation in which megacities complete over connectivity and borders are increasingly irrelevant. Shows how a new foundation of connectivity is pulling together a world that appears to be falling apart.

5 Divided
Tim Marshall
There are many reasons why we erect walls, because we are divided in many ways: wealth, race, religion, politics. Understanding what has divided us, past and present, is essential to understanding much of what's going on in the world today.

6 Off the Map
Alastair Bonnett
From forgotten enclaves to floating islands, from hidden villages to New York gutter spaces, this book charts the hidden corners of our planet. Topophilia, the love of place, is a fundamental part of what it is to be human.

7 The Silk Roads
Peter Frankopan
Our understanding of the world is shaped by the narrow focus on western Europe and the US. An antidote to Eurocentric accounts of the world, examining several continents and centuries and the factors that influenced the flow of goods and ideas.

8 Worth Dying For
Tim Marshall
The histories, the power and the politics of the symbols that unite and divide us. We wave them and burn them and still, in the 21st century, we die for them. We need to understand the symbols that people are rallying around.

9 Adventures in the Anthropocene
Gaia Vince
Our planet is said to be crossing into the Age of Humans. This book sees what life is really like for people on the frontline of the planet we've made, from artificial glaciers to electrified reefs.

10 10 Billion
Stephen Emmott
It's about our failure: failure as individuals, the failure of business and the failure of our politicians. It is about an unprecedented planetary emergency. It's about the future of us.

11 The Bottom Billion
Paul Collier
Explains four traps that prevent the homelands of the world's billion poorest people from growing and receiving the benefits of globalisation - civil war, natural resources, being landlocks and ineffective governance.

12 10 Billion
Danny Dorling
Explores how we got to 10 billion and the key issues that we face in the coming decades including how to deal with scarcity of resources and how our cities will grow and how we should prepare for population decline.

13 Peoplequake
Fred Pearce
The population bomb is being defused. Half the world's women are having two children or fewer and within a generation, the world's population will be falling, and we will all be getting very old. This book confronts our demographic demons.

14 This is the Way the World Ends
Jeff Nesbit
Our world is in trouble - right now. This book tells the real stories of the substantial impacts to Earth's systems unfolding across each continent from longer droughts in the Middle East to the monsoon season shrinking in India. A blueprint for real-time, workable solutions we can tackle together.

For **even more** suggestions on geographical books to read – https://www.internetgeography.net/wider-reading-in-geography/

Ted talks:
There are a huge variety of TED talks available online to widen your geographical knowledge and get you used to the style of lectures.
Here are a few suggestions. Follow the link for more!

Parag Khanna: How megacities are changing the map of the world

"I want you to reimagine how life is organized on earth," says global strategist Parag Khanna. As our expanding cities grow ever more connected through transportation, energy and communications networks, we evolve from geography to what he calls "connectography." This emerging global network civilization holds the promise of reducing pollution a...

https://www.ted.com/talks/parag_khanna_how_megacities_are_changing_the_map_of_the_world

Liz Ogbu: What if gentrification was about healing communities instead of displacing them?

Liz Ogbu is an architect who works on spatial justice: the idea that justice has a geography and that the equitable distribution of resources and services is a human right. In San Francisco, she's questioning the all too familiar story of gentrification: that poor people will be pushed out by development and progress. "Why is it that we treat cu...

https://www.ted.com/talks/liz_ogbu_what_if_gentrification_was_about_healing_communities_instead_of_displacing_them

Luisa Neubauer: Why you should be a climate activist

"I dream of a world where geography classes teach about the climate crisis as this one great challenge that was won by people like you and me," says climate activist Luisa Neubauer. With Greta Thunberg, Neubauer helped initiate "Fridays For Future," the momentous international school strike movement that protests the lack of action on the climat...

https://www.ted.com/talks/luisa_neubauer_why_you_should_be_a_climate_activist

Hans Rosling: Global population growth, box by box

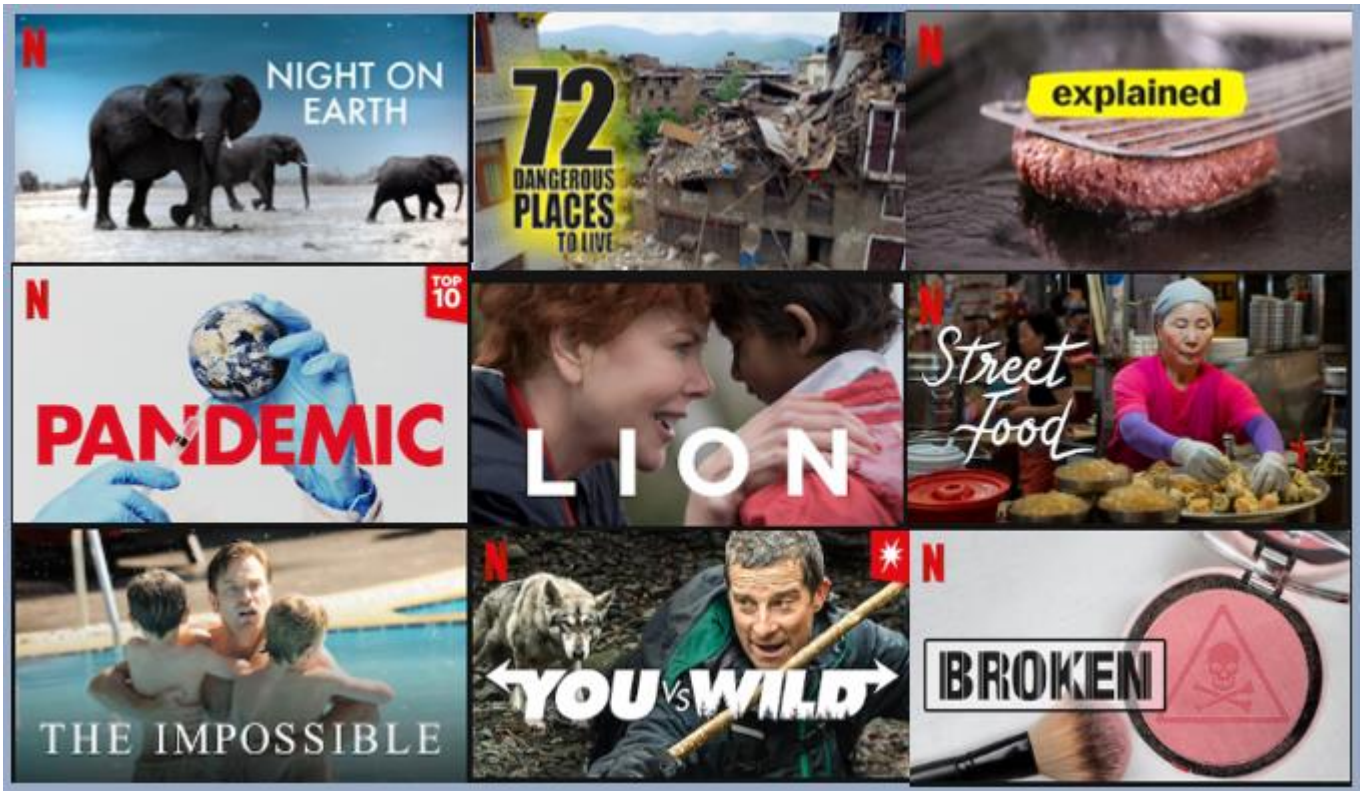
The world's population will grow to 9 billion over the next 50 years -- and only by raising the living standards of the poorest can we check population growth. This is the paradoxical answer that Hans Rosling unveils at TED@Cannes using colorful new data display technology (you'll see).

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_global_population_growth_box_by_box

https://www.ted.com/search?q=Geography

BBC iPlayer:
There is lots of free geographical content on BBC iPlayer. For example, any Simon Reeve documentaries or David Attenborough shows

Netflix:
If you have a Netflix subscription, why not watch some geography related content? Here are a few ideas..



Podcasts:
Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following;

Costing the Earth – There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player (many topics, including amongst others.. climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, plastics etc.)

Royal Geographical Society – "Ask the Geographer podcasts" - https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/ - a fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up-to-date with the latest geographical research – pick out some that interest you and give them a go!

National Geographic – There is a wide range of podcasts looking at a variety of geographical issues- again, pick some out you might be interested in! https://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/overheard/

Keep up with the news:
As you know, geography is very much in the news. Make sure you are keeping up with the news and seeing how the stories link to your geographical knowledge.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news
https://www.theguardian.com/uk
https://news.sky.com/uk
https://www.independent.co.uk/

Summer Tasks:

What does the phrase Geography is everywhere mean to you?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Which environmental or geographical issues are you interested in and/or are important to you and how do you show that?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What do you understand by the term sustainable cities?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Comment on these phrases (what do you know? What could the impact be? How can they be solved? etc.)

In 20 years 5 billion people will live in cities (by then world population is predicted to be over 9 billion), mainly in 30 megacities.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

How many megacities are there in the world today?

_____

Bottled water costs 5000 time more than the price of tap water. 1 billion people have to search for water everyday. Contaminated water kills 6000 people every day (mostly children under 5).

By 2100 there will be no more glaciers in Asia and hence water insecurity. This will transform the lives of 3 billion people. After a period of flooding the rivers will become comparative trickles compared to today's volumes. Suggest on how this will effect the region and beyond to the global community?

What impact do you see Brexit having on your life?

What do you feel are the geographical challenges facing humanity and society as we move further into the 21st century and plan for a sustainable medium and long term future?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

How do you think Leeds, the third largest city in UK, will change in the future?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

A Level Geography – Initial Numeracy Assessment

Q1	Rhona and Freya are planning their gap-year trip to the USA. They have looked up the maximum and minimum temperatures of three towns they are hoping to visit in order to work out what to pack. Calculate the annual temperature range for each town. Trumpton: Max. 37°C / Min. 8°C Obamaville: Max 29°C / Min -13°C Bushanopolis: Max 39°C / Min 24°C
Your workings:	

Q2	Floodingham has a river running through it that sees a lot of variation in flow. The new monitoring station records river level changes in mm, but for comparison with older recordings they need to be converted into metres. Calculate how much the river level changed in metres each month. Which month showed most variation, and which the least? July: High 2300 mm. Low 1246 mm. September: High 3454 mm. Low 1320 mm. November: High 3657 mm. Low 3144 mm.
Your workings:	

Q3	Kenya has just released some population data from its recent census. Of its total population of 47,673,499 it estimates that 42% are between the ages of 0-14. Calculate how many children aged 0-14 live in Kenya to the nearest whole number.
Your workings:	

Q4	Seathwaite, in the Lake District, is one of the wettest places in England. It recorded these rainfall totals on consecutive days; mm. 56 93 148 137 84 25 12 212 76 Calculate the total rainfall, the mean daily rainfall, and the median figure.
Your workings:	

Q5	In Oman, oil revenues generate $143,640,000,000 of wealth. The country has a total annual GDP (wealth) of $171 billion. Calculate the percentage contribution of oil revenue to total annual wealth.
Your workings:	

Q6	California has one of the largest water footprints in the USA. 4/8 its water needs go to environmental uses, 2/5 to agriculture and 2/20 to industry. Calculate the percentage of water that goes to each of these 3 uses.
Your workings:	

Q7	A plane is flying from Manchester to Reykjavik at an average speed of 320 mph. The distance is 1040 miles. But the data needs to be consistent with European metric data bases. I mile is approximately 1.6 km. Calculate the distance in km. and the average speed in kph. Assuming the plane leaves Manchester at 13.30 hrs, and Iceland is 1 hr behind Manchester time, what time will the plane land at Reykjavik local time.

Your workings:

Q8	A melting Norwegian glacier is 2.352 km long. In the last 10 years, it has retreated 147 metres. Calculate the percentage loss of the glacier length over that time to one decimal point. Estimate how many years it will take for the glacier to fully disappear assuming consistent melting rates.

Your workings:

Q9	In 2016 car manufacturing in Slovakia produced 1,038,503 cars. In 2010, Slovakia produced 880,721 cars. Calculate the percentage increase in car production over the six years.

Your workings:

Q10	To enter beach material results into a database following a quadrat survey of a stretch of coastline, it was necessary to convert the estimated percentages of coverage by each material type into decimal values. What percentage (%) did these material types cover in the quadrat? The remainder was obscured by seaweed. What percentage and decimal value was that? **Sand: 0.25 Shingle: 0.08 Pebbles: 0.44 Rocks: 0.16**

Your workings:

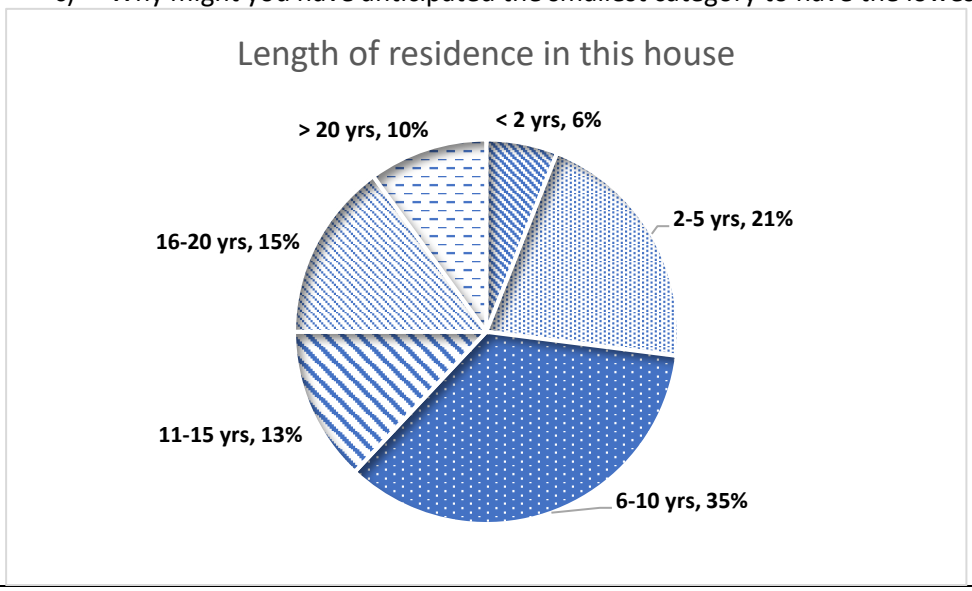
Q11 The changing birth rates for a selection of countries is being studied. What patterns/trends are observable, and where do you see anomalies that would justify further investigation?

Country	***BR 1990***	***BR2017***		***Country***	***BR 1990***	***BR 2017***
Somalia	44.3	39.6		China	10.5	12.3
Norway	13.5	12.2		Uganda	48.8	42.9
Senegal	39.9	36.3		Iceland	13.9	13.7
Japan	7.9	7.7		Denmark	10.8	10.5
Angola	45.3	44.8		Italy	8.9	8.6

Your workings:

Q12 As part of a Changing Place study, a total of 90 residents were surveyed asking how long they had lived in their current house. The results were rounded up to whole per cent.

a) Calculate the number of people who responded in each category. (Possibly not a whole number as the percentages have been rounded).
b) Approximately how many times greater is the largest response category compared with the smallest?
c) Why might you have anticipated the smallest category to have the lowest response number?

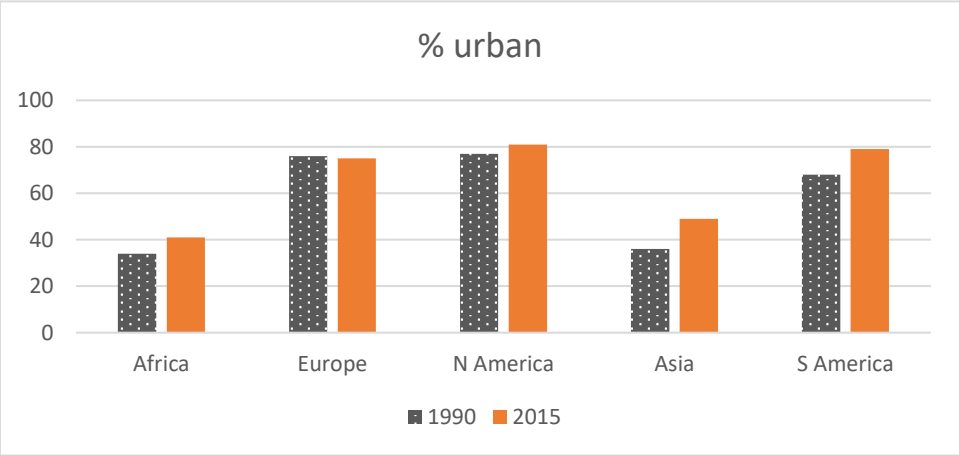


Your workings:

Q13	Ben and Oki fly out from London, Ben westwards to Los Angeles at longitude 118° 55′ and Oki eastwards to 146° 23′ in Japan. How far, in degrees of longitude, are they apart?

Your workings:

Q14	The chart shows the changing percentage of people living in urban areas between 1990 and 2015. a) Which continent has shown the largest proportional change? b) Which continent is an anomaly? c) Which continent has the largest potential for future change?



Your workings:

Q15	See if you can work through a standard formula 'blind'. Apply the values provided below to the formula to calculate the value of r_s (to 2 dec. places) $$r_s = 1 - \frac{6\,(\sum d^2)}{n^3 - n}$$ Where $\sum d^2$ is 13.8 And n is 11

Your workings:

If you have any questions about the course before we start, please email me on tom.byrne@elawnswood.co.uk